

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**



In the Matter of the License of  
Robert J. Stehlin, M.A., L.P.  
License Number: LP2035

**STIPULATION AND  
CONSENT ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by Robert J. Stehlin, M.A., L.P.  
("Licensee"), and the Minnesota Board of Psychology ("Board") as follows:

1. During all times herein, Licensee has been and now is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board from which he holds a license to practice psychology in the State of Minnesota.

**FACTS**

2. The Board finds the following:

a. Between July 24, 2007, and February 23, 2012, Licensee failed to provide client records on 12 separate requests for records made on behalf of clients by Social Security disability companies assisting the clients in appealing denials of social security benefits as follows:

1) On July 24, 2007, a Social Security disability company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #1. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on December 11, 2007, January 9, 2008, February 13, 2008, March 26, 2008, March 27, 2008, requesting the records. Licensee failed to provide the requested records to the company.

2) On November 27, 2007, a Social Security disability company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #2. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on February 4, 2008, and March 7, 2008, requesting the records. Licensee failed to provide the requested records to the company.

3) On February 19, 2008, a Social Security disability company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #3. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on April 24, 2008, May 21, 2008, June 18, 2008, July 10, 2008, August 18, 2008, August 20, 2008, September 17, 2008, October 29, 2008, November 26, 2008, December 19, 2008, March 4, 2009, April 21, 2009, August 8, 2009, and September 16, 2009, requesting the records. Licensee failed to provide the requested records to the company. On March 14, 2008, and August 18, 2008, the company requested an opinion from Licensee. Licensee did not provide the company his opinion until December 18, 2008.

4) On July 2, 2008, a Social Security disability company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #4. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on July 18, 2008, requesting the records. A hearing on the social security disability appeal was scheduled for July 24, 2008. Licensee failed to provide the requested records to the company.

5) On August 1, 2008, a Social Security disability company requested an opinion from Licensee on behalf of Client #5 and on October 1, 2008, the company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #5. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on October 10, 2008, November 26, 2008, December 11, 2008, March 4, 2009, April 16, 2009, November 5, 2009, April 12, 2010, and May 6, 2010, requesting the records. The company made a second request for an opinion on behalf of Client #5 on August 25, 2011. The company then contacted Licensee on November 9, 2011, December 1, 2011, December 15, 2011, and January 5, 2012, requesting an opinion. Licensee failed to provide the requested opinion or records to the company.

6) On June 5, 2009, a Social Security disability company requested an opinion from Licensee on behalf of Client #6. The company followed up with Licensee on

November 23, 2009, requesting an opinion. On May 4, 2011, the company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #6. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on May 10, 2011 and May 17, 2011, requesting the records. Licensee failed to provide the requested opinion or records to the company.

7) On January 20, 2010, a Social Security disability company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #7. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on April 27, 2010, May 21, 2010, July 13, 2010, November 3, 2010, December 3, 2010, and December 8, 2010, requesting the records. Licensee failed to provide the requested records to the company.

8) On March 5, 2010, a Social Security disability company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #8. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on April 16, 2010, requesting the records. Licensee failed to provide the requested records to the company.

9) On August 11, 2010, a Social Security disability company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #9. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on September 14, 2010 and September 16, 2010, requesting the records. Licensee failed to provide the requested records to the company.

10) On May 10, 2011, a Social Security disability company requested an opinion from Licensee on behalf of Client #10. The company followed up with Licensee on June 23, 2011 and July 14, 2011, requesting an opinion. On August 10, 2011, the company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #10. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on August 16, 2011, September 7, 2011, September 23, 2011, September 29, 2011,

October 5, 2011, and October 7, 2011, requesting the records. Licensee failed to provide the requested opinion or records to the company.

11) On August 24, 2011, a Social Security disability company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #11. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on October 10, 2011, November 30, 2011, December 30, 2011, January 16, 2012, January 18, 2012, January 25, 2012, January 27, 2012, January 30, 2012, January 31, 2012, and February 3, 2012, requesting the records. Licensee failed to provide the requested records to the company.

12) On January 18, 2012, a Social Security disability company requested records from Licensee on behalf of Client #12. The company subsequently contacted Licensee on February 3, 2012 and February 23, 2012, requesting the records. Licensee failed to provide the requested records to the company.

### **REGULATIONS**

3. The Board views Licensee's conduct as described in Paragraph 2 above to be in violation of statutes and rules enforced by the Board. Licensee agrees that the conduct cited above constitutes a violation of Minn. Stat. § 148.941, subd. 2(a)(1) (2011) (violation of Board statutes and rules) and Minn. R. 7200.4900, subp. 1 (2011) (failure to provide a client access to records); and constitutes a reasonable basis in law and fact to justify the disciplinary action provided for in the order.

### **REMEDY**

4. Upon this stipulation and without any further notice or proceedings, the Board hereby issues the following:

a. Reprimand. Licensee is hereby **REPRIMANDED** for the conduct cited in Paragraph 2 above.

b. Civil Penalty. Licensee shall pay a civil penalty to the Board in the amount of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars for engaging in the conduct and violations described in Paragraphs 2 and 3 above. Payment of the \$1,000.00 shall be remitted in full to the Minnesota Board of Psychology, Suite 320, University Park Plaza, 2829 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55414-3237, within 90 days of the date this Stipulation and Consent Order is adopted by the Board.

5. If Licensee fails to comply with or violates this Stipulation and Consent Order, the Committee may, in its discretion, seek additional discipline either by initiating a contested case proceeding pursuant to Minnesota Statutes chapter 14 or by bringing the matter directly to the Board pursuant to the following procedure:

a. The Committee shall schedule a hearing before the Board. At least twenty (20) days before the hearing, the Committee shall mail Licensee a notice of the violation(s) alleged by the Committee. In addition, the notice shall designate the time and place of the hearing. Within ten days after the notice is mailed, Licensee shall submit a written response to the allegations. If Licensee does not submit a timely response to the Board, the allegations may be deemed admitted.

b. The Committee, in its discretion, may schedule a conference with Licensee prior to the hearing before the Board to discuss the allegations and to attempt to resolve the allegations through agreement.

c. Prior to the hearing before the Board, the Committee and Licensee may submit affidavits and written argument in support of their positions. At the hearing, the

Committee and Licensee may present oral argument. Argument shall not refer to matters outside the record. The evidentiary record shall be limited to the affidavits submitted prior to the hearing and this Stipulation and Consent Order. The Committee shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that a violation has occurred. If Licensee has failed to submit a timely response to the allegations, Licensee may not contest the allegations, but may present argument concerning the appropriateness of additional discipline. Licensee waives a hearing before an administrative law judge, discovery, cross-examination of adverse witnesses, and other procedures governing hearings pursuant to Minnesota Statutes chapter 14.

d. Licensee's correction of a violation before the conference, hearing, or meeting of the Board may be taken into account by the Board but shall not limit the Board's authority to impose discipline for the violation. A decision by the Committee not to seek discipline when it first learns of a violation shall not waive the Committee's right to later seek discipline for that violation, either alone or in combination with other violations, at any time while Licensee's license is in a suspended status.

e. Following the hearing, the Board will deliberate confidentially. If the allegations are not proved, the Board shall dismiss the allegations. If a violation is proved, the Board may impose additional discipline, including additional conditions or limitations on Licensee's practice, a period of suspension with conditions of reinstatement, or revocation of Licensee's license.

6. This stipulation shall not in any way limit or affect the authority of the Board to temporarily suspend Licensee's license under Minn. Stat. § 148.941, subd. 3, or to initiate contested case proceedings against Licensee on the basis of any act, conduct, or omission of

Licensee justifying disciplinary action occurring before or after the date of this Stipulation and Consent Order which is not related to the facts, circumstances or requirements referenced herein.

7. In the event the Board at its discretion does not approve this settlement or a lesser remedy than indicated in this settlement, then, and in that event, this stipulation is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced by either party to this stipulation, except that Licensee agrees that should the Board reject this stipulation and this case proceeds to hearing, Licensee will assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this stipulation or of any records relating to this matter.

8. Any appropriate court may, upon application of the Board, enter its decree enforcing the order of the Board.

9. Licensee has been advised by Board representatives that he may choose to be represented by legal counsel in this matter. Licensee voluntarily waives legal counsel. The Committee is represented by Hans A. Anderson, Assistant Attorney General.

10. Licensee waives all formal hearings on this matter and all other procedures before the Board to which Licensee may be entitled under the Minnesota or United States constitutions, statutes, or rules and agrees that the order to be entered pursuant to the stipulation shall be the final order herein.

11. Licensee hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives any and all claims against the Board, the Minnesota Attorney General, the State of Minnesota and their agents, employees and representatives which may otherwise be available to Licensee under the Americans With Disabilities Act or the Minnesota Human Rights Act relative to the action taken or authorized against Licensee's license to practice psychology under this stipulation.

12. Licensee hereby acknowledges that he has read, understands, and agrees to this stipulation and has freely and voluntarily signed the stipulation without threat or promise by the Board or any of its members, employees, or agents. When signing the stipulation, Licensee acknowledges he is fully aware the stipulation is not binding unless and until it is approved by the Board. The Board may either approve the Stipulation and Consent Order as proposed, approve the Stipulation and Consent Order subject to specified change, or reject it. If the changes are acceptable to Licensee, the stipulation will then take effect and the order as modified will be issued. If the changes are unacceptable to Licensee or the Board rejects the stipulation, it will be of no effect except as specified herein.

13. This Stipulation and Consent Order constitutes a disciplinary action against Licensee.

14. This Stipulation and Consent Order is a public document and will be sent to all appropriate data banks and other entities consistent with Board policy.

15. This stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies this stipulation.

**LICENSEE**

Robert J. Stehlin M.A., L.P.  
ROBERT J. STEHLIN, M.A., L.P.

Dated: July 27, 14

**COMPLAINT RESOLUTION COMMITTEE**

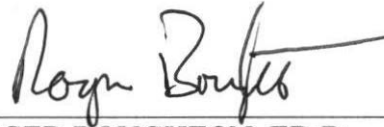
Patricia Stankovitch, PsyD, LP  
PATRICIA STANKOVITCH, PSY.D., L.P.  
Committee Chair

Dated: 8/8/14

Patricia Orud, M.A., L.P.  
PATRICIA ORUD, M.A., L.P.  
Committee Member

Dated: 8/8/14





ROGER BOUGHTON, ED.D.  
Committee Member

Dated: 08/08/2014

**ORDER**

Upon consideration of this stipulation and all the files, records, and proceedings herein,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Licensee is formally REPRIMANDED and that all other terms of this stipulation are adopted and implemented by the Board this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2014.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**



ANGELINA M. BARNES  
Executive Director